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COMDTINST 16114.19
13 NOV 2000

COMMANDANT INSTRUCTION 16114.19

Subj: USE OF PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (PWC) BY COAST GUARD PERSONNEL

Ref: (a) Property Management Manual, COMDTINST M4500.5 (series)
(b) Boat Management Manual, COMDTINST M16114.4 (series)

1. PURPOSE. This Instruction establishes policy for use of personal watercraft (PWC) by active duty and reserve Coast Guard personnel in the performance of official duties. This Instruction is intended for the internal administration of the Coast Guard and does not create rights or privileges for other parties.
2. ACTION. Area and district commanders, commanders of maintenance and logistics commands, commanding officers of headquarters units, assistant commandants for directorates, and special staff offices at Headquarters shall comply with this Instruction.
3. DIRECTIVES AFFECTED. This Instruction modifies the policy concerning use of PWCs outlined in Minimum Boat Crew Size for Coast Guard Boats, COMDTINST 162331.1.
4. DEFINITION. "Personal Watercraft" means a vessel less than 16 feet in length which is designed to be operated by a person or persons sitting, standing, or kneeling on, rather than within, the confines of a hull.
5. BACKGROUND.
 - a. The Coast Guard is required by reference (a) to maintain a central inventory of all vessels it owns. Similarly, good stewardship of public funds requires that the Coast Guard purchase and own only those vessels absolutely necessary to accomplish assigned missions. Consequently, reference (b) requires area and district commanders monitor boat inventories within their area of responsibility (AOR) to ensure they match authorized allowances, and to review operational requirements and boat utilization to ensure the most cost effective allocation of boat resources.

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NON-STANDARD DISTRIBUTION:

- b. The 1995 DOT-IG Audit of Coast Guard boat ownership documented improper property management practices and discovered that 60 percent of the boats being operated were not authorized and/or underutilized. Subsequent to that audit, a complete reconciliation of the Coast Guard's boat inventory was conducted and verified. Since then, Commandant (G-OCS) and District Boat Managers have scrupulously maintained our boat inventory and managed allowance lists to ensure they are accurate.
- c. Personal Watercraft, like all boats, if owned by the Coast Guard, must appear on the Coast Guard's boat inventory.

6. DISCUSSION.

- a. Coast Guard station boats have traditionally been procured as multi-mission platforms. Minimum requirements include being able to rig for towing in support of search and rescue missions and the ability to carry a coxswain and a two person boarding team in support of law enforcement missions. Procurement of highly specialized or single mission vessels that do not include these minimum requirements is not normally authorized.
- b. Acquisition and employment of a new boat type requires a substantial commitment of resources to ensure that proper doctrine, tactics, techniques and procedures are developed and promulgated before the new boat is employed. Additionally, operator training must be developed and completed, support systems deployed, and sufficient recurring operating funds identified and provided before any new capability can be fielded.

7. POLICY.

- a. Procurement, ownership, and operation of personal watercraft by Coast Guard active duty and reserve units is not authorized without a specific written waiver from Commandant (G-O).
- b. Coast Guard Auxiliary units will be the providers of choice for operational commanders who believe that use of personal watercraft is necessary or appropriate for specific operations or missions.
- c. Area and district commanders who believe that their current unit boat allowances and inventories are insufficient to address all mission requirements shall inform Commandant (G-O), provide appropriate analysis, and work with Commandant (G-O) to identify the resources required. This shall be accomplished prior to purchasing or accepting loan of any new boat or other vessel.

8. ACTION.

- a. District commanders with units owning and/or operating personal watercraft shall either:
 - (1) Submit waiver requests to Commandant (G-O) within 30 days of the date of this Instruction, or

- (2) Immediately withdraw the craft from service and begin the disposal process within 30 days of the date of this Instruction.
- b. Waivers allowing ownership and operation of personal watercrafts by the Coast Guard will only be granted for the purpose of evaluating a craft's utility to the service. Requests for waivers must include an evaluation plan that includes concept of operation, test and evaluation methodology, timeline, measurable objectives, and date of delivery for final report. Commandant (G-OCS) should be engaged in the development of this document to ensure all relevant aspects are considered and addressed.
- c. Account Certifying Officers and other procurement officials shall not authorize the expenditure of funds for the purchase, support, or operation of personal watercraft in the absence of a waiver allowing purchase and operation from Commandant (G-O).

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